

Message Text

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13

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PC-15 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DEAE-00 IO-14 JUSE-00 SNM-02 SY-10

TRSE-00 SCI-06 OMB-01 AGR-20 DRC-01 FPC-01 /180 W

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R 260830Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6265

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PASS PEACE CORPS

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S VISIT TO HELMAND VALLEY, KAJAKAI AND
KANDAHAR DECEMBER 18-20, 1973

SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR, ACCOMPANIED BY PEACE CORPS AND USAID
DIRECTORS, IN FIRST TRIP OUTSIDE KABUL VISITED USAID PROJECTS IN
HELMAND VALLEY AND AT KAJAKAI DAM. HE ALSO MET WITH PEACE CORPS
VOLUNTEERS AND HAD MEETINGS WITH GOVERNORS OF HELMAND AND KANDAHAR
PROVINCES, PRESIDENT GENERAL OF HELMAND VALLEY AUTHORITY AND
MINISTER OF MINES AND INDUSTRIES. VISIT WAS A VERY PROFITABLE
ORIENTATION/WORKING TRIP CARRIED OUT WITH FULL COURTESIES
AND UNUSUAL WARMTH ON AFGHAN SIDE.
ACTION REQUIRED: NONE. END SUMMARY.

1. HELMAND VALLEY: AMBASSADOR AND PARTY USING ATTACHE PLANE
DEPARTED FROM KABUL EARLY ON DECEMBER 18, ARRIVING TWO HOURS LATER
IN HELMAND VALLEY (LASHKAR GAH). AFTER SHORT BRIEFING BY USAID
STAFF AMBASSADOR CALLED ON HELMAND VALLEY GOVERNOR DR. PAZHWAK.
MEETING, WHILE GENERAL, WAS VERY CORDIAL WITH GOVERNOR PLEDGING HIS
GENERAL SUPPORT TO HELMAND VALLEY PROJECT AND INDICATING CONTINUED
NEED FOR U.S. ASSISTANCE. AMBASSADOR CALLED ATTENTION TO URGENT NEED
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FOR OPIUM POPPY CONTROL IN HELMAND VALLEY. GOVERNOR PAZHWAK ANSWERED

THAT HE AGREED THAT THIS WAS IMPORTANT PROBLEM WHICH NEEDED TO BE DEALT WITH . HOWEVER, IN WORKING OUT ANY SOLUTION GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE TO CONSIDER PRESENT LOW ECONOMIC LEVEL OF FARMERS.

2. AMBASSADOR THEN VISITED NEW PRESIDENT GENERAL OF HELMAND ARGHANDAB VALLEY AUTHORITY (HAVA), DR. MOHAMMAD NASIR KESHAWARZ, WHO HAD BEEN IN OFFICE FOR ABOUT TWO WEEKS. MR. MOHAMMAD AMAN, PRESIDENT OF HELMAND VALLEY CONSTRUCTION UNIT (HACU) ALSO ATTENDED. DR. KESHAWARZ WAS OUTGOING AND EXTREMELY FRIENDLY. IN OPENING GREETING HE CALLED FOR CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN AID AND HAVA OFFICIALS. HE ASKED FOR CONTINUED U.S. ASSISTANCE AND WENT OVER A LIST OF PRIORITY AREAS WHICH HE THOUGHT SHOULD BE DISCUSSED JOINTLY WHICH INCLUDED WATER MANAGEMENT, OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE, FARMER PRODUCTIVITY, ETC. IT WAS AGREED THAT USAID STAFF WOULD WORK CLOSELY WITH HELMAND VALLEY AUTHORITIES IN EXAMINING PROBLEM AREAS AND PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED BY NEW PRESIDENT GENERAL.

3. AMBASSADOR RAISED PROBLEM OF AND NEED FOR OPIUM POPPY CONTROL IN HELMAND VALLEY. WHILE NEW PRESIDENT GENERAL DID NOT SEEM AWARE THIS DIFFICULTY, HE AGREED ON SERIOUSNESS AND PROMISED LOOK INTO PROBLEM. HACU PRESIDENT AMAN COMMENTED THAT MOST OF POPPY GROWING LAST SPRING TOOK PLACE OUTSIDE OF PROJECT AREA. USAID DIRECTOR STRESSED DIFFICULTIES PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO PROJECT WHEN POPPIES GROWN ANYWHERE IN VICINITY.

4. AFTERNOON WAS DEVOTED TO TOUR OF PROJECT AREA INCLUDING VISIT TO HACU. BOTH DR. KESHAWARZ AND MR. AMAN ACCOMPANIED AMBASSADOR THROUGHOUT ENTIRE VISIT.

5. DR. KESHAWARZ, MR. AMAN AND HAVA/HACU SENIOR STAFF MEMBERS ATTENDED DINNER HOSTED BY AMBASSADOR. DURING DINNER MESSRS. KESHAWARZ AND AMAN STRESSED NEED FOR CLOSE WORKING COOPERATION, BOTH IN OFFICIAL AND PERSONAL CONTACTS, BETWEEN AMERICAN AND AFGHANS SO THAT NEW PROGRAM COULD BE DEVELOPED QUICKLY. (EARLIER IN DAY AMBASSADOR HAD CONFIRMED THAT PROJECT 090 WOULD BE COMING TO END ON JUNE 30, 1974.)

6. FOLLOWING MORNING AMBASSADOR HAD SUCCESSFUL BREAKFAST MEETING WITH PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS IN AREA AND VISITED PEACE CORPS TRAINING CENTER IN LASHKAR GAH. PARTY MADE SHORT VISIT TO HISTORIC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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QALA BIST, ACCOMPANIED BY DR. KESHAWARZ AND HIS WIFE.

7. KAJAKAI HYDROELECTRIC POWER PROJECT:

AMBASSADOR'S PARTY THEN MOTORED TO JAKAKAI DAM VIA GIRISHK WHERE GROUP STOPPED TO VISIT SCHOOL IN WHICH PEACE CORPS COUPLE (PAUL AND SUSAN DUGAN) WERE TEACHING ENGLISH. THE SUB-GOVERNOR MET PARTY, AND THERE WAS ALSO AN HONOR GUARD OF BOY SCOUTS TO GREET THE AMBASSADOR. DIRECTOR OF SCHOOL AND SUB-GOVERNOR WERE VERY

EFFUSIVE IN THEIR THANKS FOR PEACE CORPS HELP AT SCHOOL. AMBASSADOR AND PARTY ARRIVED AT KAJAKAI DAM SITE (AID LOAN 013) IN EARLY AFTERNOON WHERE THEY WERE GREETED BY JOHN GIVENS, FISHBACK OMAN INTERNATIONAL PROJECT DIRECTOR (FOI). AMBASSADOR THEN MET WITH MINISTER OF MINES AND INDUSTRY, DR. QAYOOM, WHO WAS ALSO IN KAJAKAI ON AN INSPECTION VISIT. ACCOMPANYING MINISTER WERE NEW ABM PRESIDENT, ENGINEER GERAN, AND ABM'S CHIEF ENGINEER, MR. AMANULLAH. MINISTER WAS HIGHLY PLEASED WITH PROGRESS WHICH HAD BEEN MADE AT DAM SITE (FOI IS ONE WEEK AHEAD OF SCHEDULE, AND THERE APPEAR TO BE NO FURTHER MAJOR OBSTACLES TO COMPLETING WORK.) ONE OF FEATURES WHICH IMPRESSED BOTH MINISTER AND PRESIDENT OF ABM WAS NUMBER OF SKILLED WORKERS WHO WERE AFGHANS DOING OUTSTANDING WELDING AND CONCRETE WORK. THERE WERE ALSO FOUR AFGHAN ENGINEERS IN TRAINING WHO WILL TAKE OVER PROJECT WHEN FOI COMPLETES WORK IN EARLY 1975.

8. DURING DISCUSSIONS WITH AMBASSADOR, MINISTER QAYOOM SAID HE HAD BEEN DISCUSSING WITH ABM AND OTHER AFGHAN OFFICIALS PROBLEM OF TRANSMISSION LINE. HE WAS BEGINNING TO LOOK AT ALTERNATIVES TO KABUL POLE PLANT WHICH WOULD ASSURE NECESSARY POLES AND BRING TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT TO FRUITION QUICKEST, MOST EFFECTIVE WAY. ONE IDEA HE MENTIONED INVOLVED IMPORTING POLES UNDER LOAN. DR. QAYOOM ALSO SAID THAT HE HAD TALKED WITH KANDAHAR GOVERNOR ABOUT IMPORTANCE OF FIRING UP REMAINING RIGHT OF WAY NEEDED TO BRING TRANSMISSION LINES TO KANDAHAR. DR. QAYOOM AND HIS PARTY LEFT IN EARLY EVENING FOR LASHKAR GAH FOR FURTHER TALKS ON CURRENT AND FUTURE ELECTRIC POWER REQUIREMENTS.

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